WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

a soft barrier for separating an interior from an exterior,

wherein when said barrier is located at a predetermined position, consideration is taken into a displacement of said barrier between the position of said barrier observed before start of autoclaving and the position thereof observed after completion of the autoclaving during which predetermined pressure is applied and a thermal load is imposed,

whereby a member placed near said barrier is prevented from being broken due to the displacement of said barrier.

2. An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

a push-button switch including a switch capable of being autoclaved, and a pressing member that shields said switch to keep said switch watertight, includes a presser, can at least partly deform, and can be displaced in a direction in which said switch is pressed,

wherein the initial reference position of the end of said presser of said pressing member observed before start of autoclaving is determined so that a displacement of said end of said presser from the initial reference position, which is derived from deformation of said pressing member

and observed after completion of the autoclaving during which pressure is applied and a thermal load is imposed, will be equal to or smaller than a distance between said end of said presser and the initial reference position, said end of said pressure bringing said switch to an on state.

3. An endoscope according to Claim 2, wherein the distance between said end of said presser and said switch observed before start of autoclaving is set to a value that disables said presser of said pressing member from pressing said switch under pressure applied at a pressurization step of the autoclaving at which at least an autoclave is pressurized.

4. An endoscope according to Claim 2, wherein the distance between said end of said presser and said switch observed before start of autoclaving is set to a value that disables said presser of said pressing member from pressing said switch under pressure released at a decompression step of the autoclaving at which at least an autoclave is decompressed.

5. An endoscope according to Claim 2, wherein the distance between said end of said presser and said switch observed before start of autoclaving is set to a value that

disables said presser of said pressing member from pressing said switch due to a difference in pressure occurring between a decompression step of the autoclaving and a pressurization step thereof.

6. An endoscope according to Claim 2, further comprising a linking means that links the interior of said endoscope and the exterior thereof when the external pressure of said endoscope is lower than the internal pressure thereof, and that seals the interior of said endoscope when the external pressure of said endoscope is higher than the internal pressure thereof.

7. An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

at least one elongated resin tube that expands to increase its outer diameter in receipt of pressure or a thermal load applied or imposed at a pressurization step of autoclaving,

wherein said resin tube is placed in a flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components at least after completion of the autoclaving.

8. An endoscope according to Claim 7, wherein:

said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which

has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components despite pressure applied at least at a pressurization step of the autoclaving.

9. An endoscope according to Claim 7, wherein said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components despite pressure released at least at a decompression step of the autoclaving.

10. An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

at least one elongated resin tube that expands to increase its outer diameter in receipt of pressure or a thermal load applied or imposed at a pressurization step of autoclaving, and that is incorporated in a flexible tube which contracts to decrease its inner diameter in receipt of the pressure or thermal load applied or imposed at the pressurization step of the autoclaving,

wherein said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components at least after completion of the autoclaving.

11. An endoscope according to Claim 10, wherein said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components despite pressure applied at least at a pressurization step of the autoclaving.

12. An endoscope according to Claim 10, wherein said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components despite pressure released at least at a decompression step of the autoclaving.

13. An endoscope according to Claim 10, wherein said resin tube is placed in said flexible tube, which has not undergone autoclaving, so that gaps will be present between said resin tube and all the other built-in components despite a difference in pressure occurring at least between a pressurization step and a decompression step of the autoclaving.

14. An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

an elastic member having at least part thereof engaged with the surface of the housing of said endoscope under the

atmospheric pressure so that said endoscope will be kept fluid-tight,

wherein said elastic member includes as at least part thereof a seal portion that separates from the surface of the housing of said endoscope under predetermined pressure that is oriented from the inner surface of said elastic member to the outer surface thereof.

15. An endoscope according to Claim 14, wherein said predetermined pressure is pressure lower than pressure released at a decompression step of autoclaving.